

2c**NOON EDITION****2c****RAIL MEN WIN EIGHT-HOUR FIGHT**

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VIRTUAL STATE OF WAR EXISTS AS THREE U. S. BOATS ARE SUNK

Possible Loss of Twenty American Lives in Sinking by
German Submarines of City of Memphis, Illinois
and Vigilancia—Subs Lend No Help
in Life Saving.

BY ROBERT J. BENDER

Washington, March 19. — United States and Germany are on verge of open hostilities.

With a virtual state of war existing as a result of the ruthless sinking by German submarines of three American freighters, it is now believed inevitable that the first meet-

ing between an armed American merchant vessel and a U-boat will mark the opening of actual hostilities.

Semi-official view is united that Germany's destruction of three American vessels with possible loss of twenty American lives leaves no question that the kaiser has forced this government into a state of war,